

Congressman

G.K. Butterfield
1st District of North Carolina



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G.K.

Contact

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1st District

March 29, 2010

Dear Friend,

Last week, the House completed its work on comprehensive health care reform, sending the finalized legislation to the President to be signed into law. In enacting reform into law, we have taken the first steps toward reigning in costs for American families and small businesses and giving all Americans the security of health insurance that can never be taken away.

The House remains focused on creating jobs and building a strong and lasting economic recovery. Last week, the House approved two bills that are part of that effort.

The Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Tax Act provides tax relief to small businesses to help them grow and expand. And, the Disaster Relief and Summer Jobs Act will help create at least 300,000 jobs for youth ages 16 to 21 and extends an important small-business lending program.

Assisting our Veterans

This week, the House approved several important bipartisan bills aimed at assisting veterans, including legislation that would provide the Veterans Administration with stronger tools needed to end homelessness.

It is unacceptable that an estimated 131,000 veterans are homeless on any given night after risking their lives on behalf of this country. These bills would also increase on-the-job training opportunities for returning veterans, prevent mortgage lenders from foreclosing on a veteran's home after their service and make sure payments for disabled veterans keep pace with the cost of living.

In these challenging economic times, with returning veterans experiencing unemployment rates in the double digits, we must do more to provide for our veterans' basic needs.

The House approved the following bills related to veterans this week:

- **End Veteran Homelessness Act of 2010 (H.R. 4810)** – Strengthens successful comprehensive programs for homeless veterans through investments; requires housing counselors to generate more veterans housing opportunities at each VA medical center with housing services; strengthens permanent housing programs; and, pays special attention to the needs of homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children.
- **National Guard Employment Protection Act of 2010 (H.R. 1879)** – Extends key reemployment rights to all of those called up for full-time National Guard duty, including those assigned to a homeland security mission.
- **Helping Heroes Keep Their Homes Act of 2010 (H.R. 3976)** – Extends expiring protections that safeguard veteran homeowners from foreclosure immediately following deployment.
- **Energy Jobs for Veterans Act (H.R. 4592)** – Increases job opportunities for veterans by

reimbursing employers for the cost of providing on-the-job training for veterans in the energy sector through a new "Veterans Energy Related Employment Program" of competitive grants.

- **Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2010 (H.R. 4667)** - Increases the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, effective December 1, 2010.
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The Congressional Page Program

For nearly two hundred years, pages have been serving the U.S. House of Representatives. Pages are students in their junior year of high school, who come to Washington D.C. to live, work, and study. The program includes the House Page Residence Hall, the House Page School, and work responsibilities within the House. Working as a team, Pages assist Members with their legislative duties, deliver correspondence and small packages within the congressional complex, answer phones in the Member cloakrooms, and prepare the House Floor for sessions.

The Page Program is offered during the fall, spring, and summer:

- Spring semester: begins near the end of January and runs until approximately the first week in June.
- Summer I: June 6, 2010 to July 2, 2010
 - 2010 Summer I Application Deadline: April 9, 2010
- Summer II: July 11, 2010 to August 6, 2010
 - 2010 Summer II Application Deadline: April 19, 2010
- Fall Semester: begins in September after Labor Day and runs until approximately the end of January the following year.

While in Washington ...

Pages live in the Page Residence Hall and receive a monthly salary. Pages are permitted to return home only on weekends when there are no Washington Seminars, except in cases of a family emergency.

Salary

Pages earn \$21,657.96 annually, with a monthly gross salary of \$1,804.83. Automatic deductions are made for federal and state taxes, social security, and the Residence Hall fee. Pages are paid on the last working day of the month.

Page Residence Hall

While serving as a Page, students reside in the Page Residence Hall, which is staffed by a director and five assistants, all of whom are adults and live in the Page Residence Hall. Each room is furnished, has a private bath, and houses up to three occupants. The dorms are coeducational, with one floor for young men and one for young women. Rooms are inspected weekly, and curfew is strictly observed at 10:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Sunday, and 12:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Security for the residence hall includes foot patrols and a lobby desk staffed around the clock by U.S. Capitol Police. Pages are required to sign in at the desk after 6:00 p.m. Before taking up residence, Pages must sign the Residence Hall Agreement, delineating payment requirements, responsibility for damage, and accepted uses of the Page Residence Hall.

School

Students serving as Pages during the fall and spring semester must attend the House Page School, which is located in the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress and is accredited through the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Classes begin at 6:45 a.m. and include mathematics, English, social studies, science, French/ Spanish, and computer technology.

Students serving as Pages during either summer session must attend House Page School from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. each weekday morning.

The Page School also sponsors Washington Seminars, featuring field trips and speakers. Seminars are usually held on Saturdays, and attendance is mandatory.

Sponsorship

- All pages must be sponsored by a Member of Congress.
- The ensure that students in eastern North Carolina are able to take advantage of the Page Program, Congressman Butterfield gives preference to students from the First Congressional District
- Since there are a limited number of positions available for each semester, not all Members can sponsor pages at the same time; generally speaking, Members are eligible to sponsor one page every 12 – 18 months.
- If our office is not eligible to sponsor a page at the time of your call, you can submit your name, city, county, zip code, and email address, and we will notify you via email, when we are taking applications.

Eligibility

- The Page program is restricted to juniors and seniors in high school for the summer session and juniors only during the rest of the year.
- All applicants must be 16 years of age by the date of their appointment
- Applicants must show proof of citizenship
- Students must have a 3.0 GPA in their core academic subjects (major courses, no electives)
- To perform their duties, Pages must be able to walk considerable distances in a day, carry and deliver packages of up to 25 pounds, answer phones and speak fluent English

How to Apply

To apply for sponsorship, please contact Dennis Sills at (202) 225-3101 or by email at Dennis.Sills@mail.house.gov. Please be prepared to submit the following items for consideration:

- Page Application Form (available through Member office)
- Official high school transcript
- Parental consent form
- Resume
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- Essays

Questions

For more information or questions about how to apply, please contact Dennis Sills at (202) 225-3101.

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